

### **REMARKS**

Claims 3-11 and 13 are pending in the application. Claims 3, 5, 7-9, 11, and 13 have been amended hereby. Claims 1 and 12 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3, 5, and 9 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has found allowable subject matter in Claims 3-6, and that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Therefore, Claims 3 and 5 have been amended to be placed in independent form and to include all the limitations of Claim 1. Further, Claim 9 has been amended to recite all the limitations of Claim 3.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 3, 5, and 9, and the claims depending therefrom, are in condition of allowance.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

An early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/Pedro C. Fernandez/

Pedro C. Fernandez

Reg. No. 41,741

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